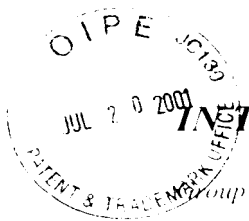


BARNES & THORNBURG

11 South Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 236-1311

RECEIVED  
JUL 24 2001  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group: 1631  
Confirmation No.: 2568  
Application No.: 09 486,168  
Invention: **Drug Discovery Using Multiple Membrane Mimetic Affinities**  
Applicant: Charles Pidgeon, et al.  
Filed: February 22, 2000  
Attorney:  
Docket: 3220-65938  
Examiner: Mary K. Zeman

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

on July 17, 2001

(Signature)

Carla L. Twyman  
(Printed Name)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action mailed June 18, 2001, in which the Examiner reported that the application contains multiple inventions or groups of inventions not linked to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

Group I: claims 1-22, drawn to methods of screening test compounds using membrane mimetic surfaces and systems therefor;

Group II: claims 23-28, drawn to compositions comprising two or more

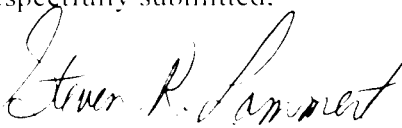
making them; and

Group IV: claims 34-35, drawn to a functionalized surface

The Examiner refers to the preliminary search and examination reports and their assertion that the special technical feature of the inventions listed is the use of test compounds and membrane mimetic surfaces to predict interactions of other drugs with membrane surfaces. Respectfully, such is a mischaracterization of the special technical feature of the present invention. Claim 1 literally specifies a method of screening test compounds for probable biological properties, not for prediction of "interactions of other drugs with membrane surfaces." A careful reading of the cited Liu, et al. reference will reveal that the cited Liu et al. reference does not teach or suggest the invention specified by any of the present claims. The Liu et al. reference was simply misapplied during PCT preliminary examination, and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's independent reading of that reference and careful comparison of same with the subject matter specified in the present claims.

Applicants elect the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-22, for prosecution in the present application. Consideration of the elected claims and review of the pertinent art will reveal that the drug discovery methodology embodied by the method and system claims in the elected invention is without antecedent in the prior art. The use of multiple membrane mimetic surfaces to generate arrays of values for control compounds (for example, known drug substances) and test compounds and using such arrays to predict biological properties of test compounds as specified in the present claims, is a novel and powerful tool for drug discovery. The invention is patentable over the art. Examination of the claims leading to their allowance and passage of the application to issuance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Steven R. Lammert

SKL:gd  
(317) 231-7258  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204